

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) issued the following statement on the passing of Sen. Edward Kennedy late Tuesday at his home in Hyannis Port.

“Our nation’s heart is heavy today with the news of a great loss – the passing of Sen. Edward Kennedy. Our prayers are with his family this morning as they grieve in private. To his son and my dear friend, Patrick Kennedy, my thoughts are with you today and in the coming days.

Even in his passing, Sen. Kennedy lives on as we remember his spirit of bipartisanship. His lessons were numerous, his work ethic unquestionable and his heart capacious. In the great tradition of the Kennedy family, Sen. Kennedy gave the greater part of his life to serving the American people and the world. He was a great statesman, a political giant and a grand human being.

During his 47 years in the Senate, he braved personal challenges and political firestorms with the tenacity that gave rise to his nickname: the Lion of the Senate. Our country’s social fabric is undeniably better for his ceaseless commitment to improving education and healthcare and pursuing civil, voting and labor rights for all.

Legends are forged in the fires of time and adversity. No one deserves that designation more than our friend, Sen. Edward Kennedy.”

# # #